



**THE REPUBLICAN
STUDY COMMITTEE**

LIBERTY. OPPORTUNITY. SECURITY.
MARK WALKER, CHAIRMAN

1. [H.Con.Res. 35 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition](#)
2. [H.Con.Res. 36 - Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby](#)
3. [H.R. 455 - To designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"](#)
4. [S. 496 - To repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform"](#)
5. [H.R. 876 - Aviation Employee Screening and Security Enhancement Act of 2017, as amended](#)
6. [H.R. 1372 - Homeland Security for Children Act, as amended](#)
7. [H.R. 534 - U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act, as amended](#)
8. [H.Res. 187 - Relating to efforts to respond to the famine in South Sudan, as amended](#)



H. Con. Res 35 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Rep. Barletta, R-PA)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res 35](#) would authorize the annual Police Week ceremonies on the Capitol grounds.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H. Con Res. 35 “would result in no significant cost to the federal government.”

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The resolution would authorize the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to sponsor the Annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service on the Capitol Grounds. This service will be held on May 15, 2017.

The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police will assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities associated with the event. The event will be free of admission charge and open to the public. Additionally, the event is to be arranged so that it does not interfere with the needs of Congress. The resolution would authorize the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to erect a stage and sound amplification system on the Capitol Grounds, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol.

Police Officers from around the country will converge on Washington, D.C. the week of May 14th for [Police Week](#) events to honor the fallen officers who gave their lives in the line of duty. President Kennedy signed a proclamation in 1962 designating May 15th as the Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res 35 was introduced on March 20, 2017, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The committee marked up and reported the resolution on [March 29, 2017](#), by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

House Rules do not require statement of constitutional authority for resolutions.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



H. Con. Res 36 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Rep. Hoyer, D-MD)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res 36](#) would authorize the annual Soap Box Derby on the Capitol grounds.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H. Con Res. 36 “would result in no significant cost to the federal government.”

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The resolution would authorize the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to sponsor the soap box derby races on the Capitol Grounds, on June 17, 2017, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association will assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities associated with the event. The event will be free of admission charge and open to the public. Additionally, the Capitol Police will provide for enforcement of [restrictions](#) concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds. The resolution would authorize the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to erect a stage and sound amplification system on the Capitol Grounds.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con. Res 36 was introduced on March 20, 2017, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The committee marked up and reported the resolution on [March 29, 2017](#), by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

House Rules do not require statement of constitutional authority for resolutions.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



H.R. 455 – To designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse" (Rep. Thompson, D-MS)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 455](#) would designate the U.S. courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 455 "would have no significant effect on the federal budget and would not affect direct spending or revenues".

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government? No.
- Encroach into State or Local Authority? No.
- Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch? No.
- Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

According to the [committee report](#), "Mr. R. Jess Brown was a civil rights lawyer who worked against segregationist laws and was credited in the 1950s with filing the first civil rights suit in Mississippi." Brown passed away in 1989.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 455 was introduced on January 11, 2017, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The committee marked up and reported the resolution on [March 29, 2017](#), by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.”

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



S. 496 – A bill to repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform" (Sen. Duckworth, D-IL)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 496](#) would repeal a rule issued by the Obama Department of Transportation regarding "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform" ([81 Fed. Reg. 93448](#) (December 20, 2016)).

COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available for S. 496.

The CBO has released a cost estimate for H.R. 1346, the identical House companion legislation. CBO [estimates](#) that enacting H.R. 1346 "would have no effect on the federal budget."

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

Federal transportation law requires urbanized areas with populations over 50,000 to establish a [Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (MPO) to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation. The law encourages MPOs and state officials

that cover parts of multistate metropolitan areas to coordinate, but does not require them to produce a single long-range plan and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

On December 20, 2016, the Obama Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a regulation (81 Fed. Reg. 93448) that would require MPOs in the same urbanized area to merge, adjust their boundaries, or produce a single, unified set of plans to guide transportation investments. According to the [House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee](#), “the rule exceeds the planning requirements set forth in statute.”

S. 496 would repeal the rule.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 496 was introduced on March 2, 2017, and referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. The Senate passed S. 496 on March 8, 2017, by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1346 was introduced on March 2, 2017, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the resolution on [March 29, 2017](#), by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Bills that originate in the Senate do not require a constitutional authority statement.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



H.R. 876 – Aviation Employee Screening and Security Enhancement Act of 2017, as amended (Katko, R-NY)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 876](#) would make alter the application process for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) [Secure Identification Display Area](#) (SIDA) badges, and require several studies and reviews of employee access at airports.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available. According to information provided courtesy of the Majority Leader's office, CBO has advised that the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. The bill would authorize no additional funding.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 876 would require that applications for SIDA badges include a requirement for the submission of applicants Social Security Numbers. Applications would also be required to include notice that credentialed individuals may be subject to search upon entering or exiting a secure area, as well as while in such areas at airports. Further, the administration would be required to ensure that all

individuals whose credentialing required fingerprinting to be continuously monitored through the FBI [Rap Back](#) program in order to better defend against insider threats. TSA would also be required to establish a database containing the names of individuals who have had their security credentials revoked, including establishing a process for individuals wrongfully placed in such database to have their names removed.

The bill would also require the TSA to conduct an assessment of the cost and feasibility of establishing secure access points at all employee access point for airports. The study would include a review of using card and pin entry or biometric identification at doors, video surveillance, and other screening such as explosive detection and magnetometers. The Comptroller General (through the Government Accountability Office (GAO)) would be required to conduct a review of such study and submit such review to Congress.

The bill would also require the TSA to conduct covert-testing of airport employee-led security operations to evaluate the effectiveness of such operations. TSA would submit an annual report on the findings of such testing to Congress for each year from 2018-2022. Results would also be made available to airport operators.

Finally, the bill would designate the Department of Homeland Security as the lead agency for preventing against insider threats at airports and would require education efforts to improve airport operators, employees and air carrier prevention of insider threats.

No additional funds would be authorized to carry out the provisions of the bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Katko on February 6 and referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. The committee held a markup on March 8, and reported the bill by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



H.R. 1372 – Homeland Security for Children Act, as amended (Payne, D-NJ)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1372](#) would amend the Homeland Security Act to require FEMA to identify and integrate the needs of children into disaster management, preparation, and mitigation activities, including by authorizing the appointment of a technical expert for such purposes.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available. According to information provided courtesy of the Majority Leader's office, CBO has advised that the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would authorize the appointment of a technical expert related to incorporating the needs of children in FEMA disaster planning. Some conservatives may believe such a position to be duplicative of existing FEMA personnel.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1372 would require FEMA to explicitly consider the needs of children in carrying out its responsibilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the damage of

disasters. The bill would authorize the appointment of a technical expert on the needs of children who could consult with outside organizations and experts as needed.

The bill would also require a report to Congress within one year on activities FEMA undertakes to implement the requirements of the bill, including information on the appointment of a technical expert, review and modifications of any policies, and any coordination with outside organizations.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Payne on March 6 and referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. The committee held a markup on March 8, and reported the bill, as amended, by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I Section 8 Clause 3--Congress has the ability to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



H.R. 534 – U.S. Wants to Compete for a World Expo Act, as amended (Emmer, R-MN)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 534](#) would authorize the Secretary of State to take necessary action for the U.S. to rejoin and maintain membership in the [Bureau of International Expositions \(BIE\)](#). The bill would allow for the use of private funds to facilitate rejoining. The current-law prohibition on the use of funds in excess of explicit appropriations for individual exhibition displays would be maintained.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available. According to information provided courtesy of the Majority Leader's office, CBO has advised that the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues, and would result in discretionary costs of less than \$500,000 over the 5-year period.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may believe that it is not the role of the federal government to support or encourage participation in international expositions. Previous House Republican and RSC budgets have called for eliminating funding for membership dues in the BIE and other miscellaneous international organizations that lack a clear responsibility of the federal government.

Some conservatives may be concerned that while current law prohibits the use of funds in excess of appropriation for specific exhibits or pavilions, federal funds could be used to pay BIE membership dues, subject to appropriation. The sponsor has indicated that [private entities](#) have already agreed to pay such dues in accordance with the bill's provisions allowing the secretary to use private funds for such purposes.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would authorize the Secretary of State to reestablish and maintain U.S. membership in the BIE. Such membership previously resulted in annual appropriations for membership dues.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 534 would authorize the Secretary of State to take the necessary actions for the U.S. to rejoin and maintain membership in the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE). The secretary would be authorized to accept private donations to fund such action. The bill would restate the current-law prohibition on the use of federal funds in excess of explicit appropriation for specific exhibition displays or pavilions, however, it would not prohibit federal funds from being used for membership dues.

The U.S. ceased participation in the BIE after Congress failed to provide appropriations for membership dues in 2001. The BIE asserts the U.S. would need to pay back dues owed, amounting to roughly \$100,000, in addition to current membership dues of about \$60,000. Previous [RSC and House Republican budgets](#) called for the elimination of appropriations for U.S. membership dues in the BIE. Both [Canada](#) and [Australia](#) abandoned membership in the BIE after questions arose about the value of participation.

It has been [asserted](#) that efforts by U.S. states and cities to host expositions will be unsuccessful so long as the U.S. is not a BIE member. According to information provided by the [Minnesota World's Fair Bid Committee and ExpoUSA](#), BIE is required to discriminate against bids from non-member countries.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Emmer on January 13 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which has taken no action on the bill.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*



H.Res. 187 – Relating to efforts to respond to the famine in South Sudan, as amended (Bass, D-CA)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.Res. 187](#) would express the sense of the House that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) should continue to provide food aid to South Sudan. Further, that the House calls on the government of South Sudan to allow for the distribution of food aid and condemns violence against aid workers.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is required for House resolutions.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

South Sudan is currently locked in a prolonged civil war between ethnic factions of the elected leaders of the government. As a result of the ongoing violence, crops have been unable to be effectively planted or harvested for several years, resulting in severe food shortages and famine. Further, government and armed opposition forces have attacked or prevented humanitarian aid from reaching communities, especially as a result of government forces preventing aid from reaching civilians in rebel areas.

H. Res. 187 would express the sense of the House that USAID should continue to provide food aid to South Sudan, including through the Food for Peace and Emergency Food Security Programs. Some

conservatives believe that these programs continue to be in need of reform to improve efficiency and reduce waste.

The resolution would also state that the House: condemns threats and violence against humanitarian workers and the looting of civilian food aid by armed forces; calls on the government of South Sudan to allow immediate access for humanitarian aid to reach civilians; and supports the work of the U.S. government to facilitate humanitarian assistance to South Sudan.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This resolution was introduced by Representative Bass on March 9 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which has taken no action on the bill.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

House resolutions do not require constitutional authority statements.

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*

###